

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

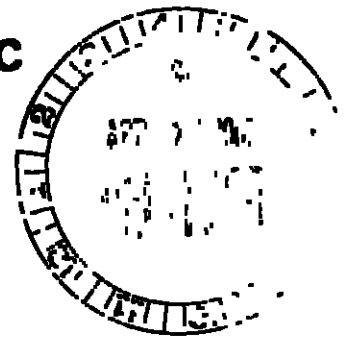
3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY E. STRICKLAND JR.
SIDNEY.STRICKLAND@STRICKLANDPLLC.COM

April 2, 2007

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

218954




**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, MN**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed please find an original and 10 copies of the Verified Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 for filing with the Board in the above-referenced matter.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$3,100.00 for the filing fee.

Very truly yours,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Attorney for BNSF Railway Company

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR 3 - 2007

Part of
Public Record

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SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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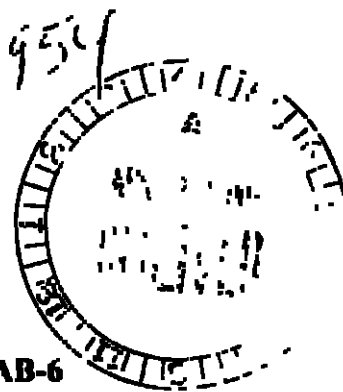
STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452X)

218 9501

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY –
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN CLINTON AND MARION COUNTIES, MN**

**DOCKET NO. AB-6
(SUB. NO. 452X)**



**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50**

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APR - 2 2007

**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
2650 Lou Menk Drive
P O Box 96157
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0057**

**By SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
ELIZABETH E. WAITE
SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES
3050 K Street, N.W.
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1325**

FILED

APR - 2 2007

**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Attorneys for BNSF Railway Company

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Office of Proceedings**

APR 3 - 2007

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Public Record**

DATT: FILED, April 2, 2007

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY –
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION –
IN CLINTON AND MARION COUNTIES, MN**

**DOCKET NO. AB-6
(SUB. NO. 452X)**

**VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
UNDER 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50**

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY ("BNSF") ("Applicant") files this Verified Notice of Exemption under 49 C.F.R. 1152 Subpart I- Exempt Abandonments (49 C.F.R. 1152.50) for BNSF to abandon a rail line that extends between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"), a total distance of 1.05 miles.

The Line is depicted in a map that is attached to this Notice as Appendix 1.

Responses to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(2):

I. *Proposed consummation date for the abandonment*

The proposed consummation date of this abandonment will be at least 50 days from the filing date of April 2, 2007, which is May 22, 2007.

II. *Certification required in 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(h)*

The required certification is attached hereto as Appendix 2.

III. *Information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1152.22(a)(1-4), (7) and (8) and (e)(4)*

(a) General

(1) Exact name of Applicant

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF").

- (2) *Whether applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C. Subtitle IV, Chapter 105***

Applicant is a common carrier by railroad subject to 49 U.S.C.

Subtitle IV, Chapter 105

- (3) *Relief sought (abandonment of line or discontinuance of service)***

BNSF seeks to use the class exemption from Surface

Transportation Board approval authorizing the abandonment of the

Clinton and Marion Counties Line specified above.

- (4) *Detailed map of the subject line***

See Appendix 1

- (7) *Name, title and address of representative of applicant to whom correspondence should be sent***

**Sidney L. Strickland, Jr
Sidney Strickland And
Associates, PLLC
3050 K Street, N.W.
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1325**

Attorney for BNSF

- (8) *List of all United States Postal Service ZIP Codes that the line traverses***

The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 62801

- (c)(4) *Statement of whether the properties proposed to be abandoned are suitable for other public purposes, including roads or highways, other forms of mass transportation, conservation, energy production or transmission or recreation. If the applicant is aware of any restriction on the title to the property, including any reversionary interest, which would affect the transfer of title or the use of property for other than rail purposes, this shall be disclosed***

The properties of the proposed abandonment appear to be appropriate for other public purposes. Based on information in our possession, there are no federally granted rights-of-way within the corridor. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made available promptly to those requesting it.

IV. *Level of Labor Protection*

The interests of railroad employees who may be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment will be adequately protected by the labor protective conditions set forth in *Oregon Short Line RR Co. - Abandonment - Goshen*, 360 U.S. 91 (1979).

V. *Certification that Applicants have complied with the notice requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1152.5(d)(1) and 1105.11*

The required certifications are set forth in Appendix 3 to this Notice of Exemption.

VI. *Environmental and Historic Reports*

A combined Environmental and Historic Report is attached to this Notice of Exemption as Appendix 4.

Respectfully submitted,

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
2650 Lou Menk Drive
P O Box 96157
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0057



By: SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
ELIZABETH F. WAITE
SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES
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Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1325

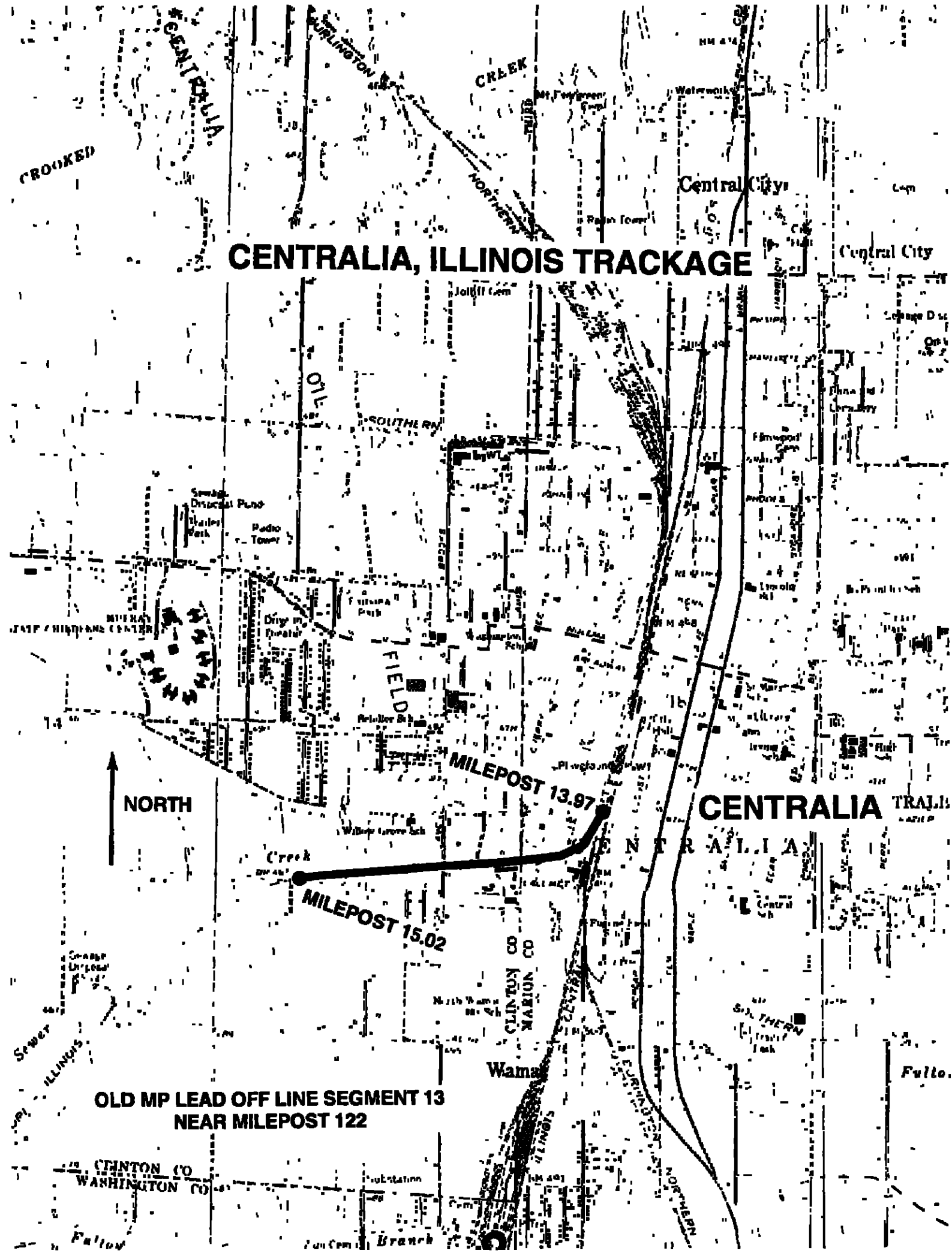
Attorneys for BNSF Railway Company

DATE FILED April 2, 2007

APPENDIX 1

Detailed Map of the Line

CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS TRACKAGE



APPENDIX 2

Certification Required in 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(b)

**VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION THAT RAIL LINE MEETS
CRITERIA OF 49 C.F.R. SECTION 1152.50(b)**

I, Susan Odom, being duly sworn depose and state that, as Manager, Network Strategy in the Network Development department of the BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF"), I am authorized to make this verification, and that I have read the foregoing Notice of Exemption and know the facts asserted therein are true and accurate as stated to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief

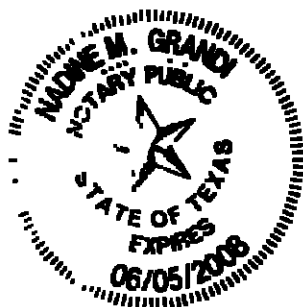
In accordance with 49 C F R § 1152.50(b), I hereby certify that, with respect to the line which is the subject of the Notice of Exemption filed in Docket No AB-6 (Sub-No 452X), no local traffic has moved on the line for at least two (2) years prior to the date hereof Also, any overhead traffic handled on the line will be rerouted Further, no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or a State or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board or any U S District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period

The foregoing certification is made on behalf of BNSF by the undersigned after due and careful investigation of the matters herein certified and based on the best of the knowledge, information, and belief of the undersigned



Susan Odom
Manager, Network Strategy

Subscribed and sworn to
before me the 7th day of MARCH, 2007





APPENDIX 3

***Certifications that Applicant Has Complied with the Notice
Requirements of 49 C.F.R. 1152.50(d)(1) and 1105.11***

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1), the undersigned hereby certifies that notice of the proposed abandonment in Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) was mailed via first class mail on March 19, 2007 to the following parties:

Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave
Springfield, IL 62701


Military Traffic Management Control
Attn. Railroads for National Defense
720 Thimble Shoals Boulevard, #130
Newport News, VA 23606-2574

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Recreational Resources Assistance Division
1849 C Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20240-0001

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief of the Forest Service
4th Floor N.W., Yates Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

George Weber
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Bureau of Railroads
300 West Adams Street, 2nd Fl.
Chicago, IL 60606

Dated April 2, 2007


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEWSPAPER
PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12**

The undersigned certifies that a "Notice of Intent to Abandon Rail Service" was published in the form prescribed by the Board for out of service abandonment exemptions. The notice was published one time in the following newspaper of general circulation in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois: *Morning Sentinel*. Publication of the notice was accomplished on March 26, 2007. A copy of the publication is attached.



Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K Street, NW
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
Phone (202) 338-1325
Fax (202) 295-3854

INVOICE FOR LEGAL NOTICE

Sidney Strickland & Assoc., PLLC

For _____ Notice _____ Time _____

MORNING
SENTINEL

232 E Broadway
Centralia, Illinois 62801

In Matter of *STB Docket No. AB-6*

THIS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT WAS PUBLISHED ON FOLLOWING DATES:

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Mar</i>																															

DATE *Mar. 26* 20 *07*

AMOUNT DUE \$ *43.56*

All Publication Fees Payable
With Certificate Of Publication

STB DOCKET NO. AB-6

(SUB NO. 452X)

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO ABANDON

RAIL SERVICE

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY (BNSF) gives notice that on or about March 29, 2007, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) Washington DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F - Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of the 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois. The rail line traverses through United States Postal Service Zip Code 62801. The proceeding will be docketed as STB Docket No. AB 6 (Sub No 452X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, or by calling that office at 202 245 8235.

Applicants for financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 305 K Street S.W. Washington, DC 20423 0001 (See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(c)), and one copy must be served on applicant's representative (See

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

No

CENTRALIA IL *Mar 20* *07*

The undersigned does hereby certify that he is the publisher, or the authorized agent of the publisher, of the MORNING SENTINEL, that said newspaper is a daily local newspaper of general circulation which has been published in the City of Centralia in Marion County, State of Illinois, continuously for a period of more than one year prior to the first date of the publication attached hereto. He further certifies that said newspaper is "a newspaper" as defined in "an Act to revise the law in relation to notices" as amended by Act approved July 17 1959 - Ill Revised Statutes, Chap. 100, Paragraphs 1 and 5. He further certifies that the attached notice was published in said newspaper.

DATES OF PUBLICATION

The first publication being in the paper published on the day of

Mar. 26 20 *07*

and the last publication being in the paper published on the day of

Mar. 26 20 *07*

A total of *1* days

Publication Fee \$ *43.56*

Julius Cepedal
if (Authorized Agent of Publisher)

Advance Payment

Received By _____ Date _____

49 CFR 1104.12(a) Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202 245 0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative, Sidney L. Strickland, Jr., Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC, 3050 K Street N.W., Suite 101, Washington, DC 20007 5108 (202) 438 1825.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R.1105.7(c) and 8(c)

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF"), by and through its authorized representative, Sidney L. Strickland, Jr., certifies that on March 8, 2007, BNSF sent copies of the foregoing Environmental and Historic Reports by first class mail to the following agencies:

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, SI A
Surface Transportation Board
395 I Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 W. Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821

Alan Keller, P.E.
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Susan L. J. Homeman, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Patrick G. Carroll
Big River Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
BIFW Federal Building
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

Marcia Sieckman
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Eastern States
Milwaukee Field Office
626 E. Wisconsin Ave
Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4617

Brian Copple, Public Works
1141 5th Street
Centralia, IL 62801

John Stuehmeier, Mayor
Centralia City Hall
222 S. Poplar St. (U.S. 51)
Centralia, IL 62801

John Schwalbach, Bureau Chief
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Bureau of Railroads
3215 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

Robert Maydwell
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-1226

Irvn Dzikowski
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Anne L. Haaker
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

Clinton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 308
County Courthouse
Carlyle, IL 62231-0308

Sam Nall
Marion County Board Chairman
P O Box 637
Salem, Illinois 62881

Grant Kleinhenz, City Manager
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801

Howard Zenner, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1780 N 4th Street
Breese, IL 62230

Tony Antonacci, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1550 East Main
Salem, Illinois 62881

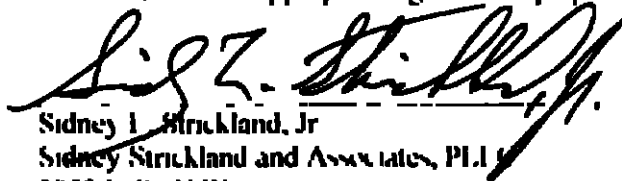
Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Cesar Jose Suarez
Economic Development Director
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Geodetic Survey
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282

Office of the Governor
State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

The required cover letters (pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1105.11) are attached hereto. BNSI has consulted with all appropriate agencies in preparing the reports.



Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W.,
Suite 101
Washington, D.C. 20007

APPENDIX 4

Environmental and Historic Reports

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY --
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN CLINTON AND MARION COUNTIES, IL.**

**DOCKET NO. AB-6
(SUB. NO. 452X)**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORTS

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY
2650 Lou Menk Drive
P O Box 96157
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0057**

**By SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND, JR.
ELIZABETH WAITE
SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES
3050 K Street, N.W.,
Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1325**

Attorneys for BNSF Railway Company

DATED March 8, 2007

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY --
ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN CLINTON AND MARION COUNTIES, IL.**

**DOCKET NO. AB-6
(SUB. NO. 452X)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORTS
(49 C.F.R. 1105.7 AND 49 C.F.R. 1105.8)**

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 and § 1105.8, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) (referred to as "Applicant") hereby files Environmental and Historic Reports. These Reports constitute Applicant's assessment of the environmental effects and historic effects of abandonment of rail service on the involved rail line. Persons who review these Reports are entitled to provide comments to the Surface Transportation Board (STB), Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), 1925 K Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20423. There is information in the Applicant's files to indicate that the rail line covered by these Reports does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. See 49 C.F.R. § 1152.60(d). These Reports have been prepared in conjunction with the prospective filing of a Notice of Exemption for abandonment of the involved rail line. STB regulations provide that the Notice of Exemption cannot be filed until at least 20 days after these Reports are submitted.

I
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
(49 C.F.R. 1105.7)

The following information is submitted to the STB by BNSF in accordance with the Board's reporting requirements as set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7 for the purpose of assisting the Board's preparation of an environmental document regarding BNSF's Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line")

(1) Proposed Action and Alternatives: Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

This Line was part of the approximately 10 mile Sparta - Centralia, IL line the Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") filed for abandonment in approximately 1989 (Missouri Pacific Railroad Finance Docket 31447 decided July 14, 1989, and served July 20, 1989). Two UP customers, Valley Steel and Miller Lumber, were served on the 1.05 mile Centralia, IL trackage. Rather than initiate a lengthy and protested abandonment proceeding with the customers, UP sought to convey the 1.05 mile of trackage at Centralia serving Valley Steel and Miller Lumber to Burlington Northern Railroad ("BN"), one of BNSF's predecessors. BN acquired the 1.05 miles of trackage at Centralia in a carrier to carrier transaction under 49 U.S.C. 11343 and started serving the customers in approximately 1989 after UP abandoned its Sparta - Centralia line. This allowed

for uninterrupted rail service to Valley Steel and Miller Lumber throughout and following the UP abandonment proceedings

Valley Steel went out of business in approximately 1991 and Miller Lumber burned down in approximately 1995. There were no other customers that used the Line and no traffic has been handled on the Line since Miller Lumber burned down

The trackage and the switch off of the main line that served the Line were removed in approximately 2000. Due to their high cost of maintenance, BNSF will routinely remove switches from main and branch lines when they are no longer necessary. However, it is not BNSF's policy to remove track before going through a formal abandonment proceeding. BNSF has recently implemented internal and external procedures to ensure that track removal and the salvage process do not occur prior to receiving formal STB abandonment authority. However, this Line was salvaged prior to those certain measures being in place

A map of the Line is attached as Exhibit A

(2) Transportation System: Describe the effect of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action

The proposed abandonment will have no effect on existing transportation systems or patterns as there has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted

(3) Land Use:

(i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

The proposed abandonment should not be inconsistent with local or regional land use plans. The City of Centralia indicates it would like to see the abandoned rail line reused as future industrial expansion for adjacent business owners, a recreational trail, and/or a City road to improve traffic circulation in the area. See Exhibit B, letter dated December 18, 2006, from Grant Kleinhenz, City Manager, City of Centralia, IL.

BNSF notified the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation ("IDOT") by a letter dated November 20, 2006. See Exhibit C. As of the date of this report, IDOT has not responded. BNSF will provide the Board copies of any response it may receive.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agriculture land.

The proposed abandonment should have no effect on prime agricultural lands. The Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") of Clinton County indicates that no Prime Farmland exists along the section of right of way proposed for abandonment. See Exhibit D, letter dated December 8, 2006, from Howard Zenner, District Conservationist, Clinton County, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Also, the NRCS Salem Field Office indicates it has no comment regarding the proposed abandonment action. See Exhibit E, letter dated December 6, 2006, from Tony Antonucci, District Conservationist, Natural

Resources Conservation Service, Salem Field Office

(iii) If any action affects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by § 1105.9

N/A

(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10906 and explain why

The proposed abandonment should be suitable for alternative public use

As noted above, the City of Centralia would like to see the line used for industrial expansion, a recreational trail, or a City road. Also as indicated above, IDOT was notified by letter dated November 20, 2006. See Exhibit C. As of the date of this report, IDOT has not responded. BNSF will provide the Board copies of any response it may receive.

(4) Energy:

(i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources

There are no known recoverable energy resources along the Line. There has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted.

(ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities

This abandonment will not adversely affect movement or recovery of recyclable commodities as there has been no local traffic on the line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted.

(iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why

This abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency as there has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted

(iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than

(A) 1,000 rail carloads a year, or

(B) An average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in the energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given

There will be no diversions of traffic as there has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted

(5) Air:

(i) If the proposed action will result in either

(A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of the line effected by the proposed, or

(B) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions

The action will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds. Moreover, the action will not involve an increase in truck traffic of more than 10% or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment as there has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted

(ii) If the proposed action affects a Class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either

(A) An increase in rail traffic of at least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, or

(B) An increase in rail yard activity of at least 20% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) An average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic of 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 (or 49 U.S.C. § 10505) or in a case involving the reinstitution of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.

The action will not result in meeting or exceeding the specified thresholds.

Moreover, the proposed abandonment will not result in an increase of rail or truck traffic as there has been no local traffic on the Line for over two years and there is no overhead traffic to be rerouted.

(iii) If the transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and Freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

The proposed abandonment will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) **Noise:** If any of the thresholds identified in item (5) (i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause

(i) An incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels L_{dn} or more,

N/A

(ii) An increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities and nursing homes) in the project area and quantify the noise increase for those receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

N/A

(7) Safety

(i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad crossings).

This abandonment should have no adverse effect on health or public safety. There are no public crossings and no private crossings on the Line. During salvage operations, if any may be required, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety, and contractors will be required to satisfy all applicable health and safety laws and regulations.

(ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity, the frequency of service, whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds, safety practices (including any speed restrictions), the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills, the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills, and the likelihood of and accidental release of hazardous materials.

The abandonment will not result in the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) If there are any known hazardous waste site or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

There is no known hazardous waste site or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way.

(8) Biological Resources:

(i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") indicates it does not own any

lands or interests in land in the vicinity of the proposed abandonment. FWS adds it does not have any concerns regarding real estate matters in the abandonment. See Exhibit F, letter dated November 28, 2006, from Patrick G. Carroll, Senior Realty Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

The National Park Service ("Service") indicates the project does not conflict with the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery programs. The Service has no additional comments at this time. See Exhibit G, letter dated December 27, 2006, from Robert Maydwell, Grants Management Assistant, Midwest Region, National Park Service.

In a separate correspondence from the Regional Environmental Coordinator of the Service, the Service indicates that it has no comment of the proposed action. See Exhibit H, correspondence postmarked January 9, 2007, from the Regional Environmental Coordinator, Midwest Regional Office, National Park Service.

The Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") indicates there are no Federal lands administered by the BLM along the railroad line. BLM also notes that some of the original railroad grants were limited fee rights-of-way and may be subject to the Railroad Right-of-Way Forfeiture and Abandonment and the National Trails System Improvement Act. See Exhibit I, letter dated December 6, 2006, from Marcia Sieckman, Supervisor, Lands and Renewable Resources Team, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, U.S. Department of the Interior.

(9) Water:

(i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

The proposed exemption should be consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. BNSF contacted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA"). IEPA indicates it has reviewed the proposed abandonment of 1.05 miles of track in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois, and has determined that no permit is required pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and/or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. See Exhibit J, letter dated November 28, 2006, from Alan Keller, P.E., Manager, Permit Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

The proposed abandonment should not require a Section 404 permit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("CORPS") indicates no wetlands or waters of the United States would be impacted by the project. The Corps further indicates a Department of the Army Section 404 permit is not required. See Exhibit K, letter dated December 12, 2006, from Susan L. J. Horneman, Project Manager, Illinois Permits Region, St. Louis District, Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposed abandonment should not affect any 100-year flood plains. The City of Centralia indicates the proposed abandonment will not affect any 100-

year floodplain within the segment of rail east of Cherry Street. The City also indicates it does not have floodplain maps for the segment west of Cherry Street and that flood plain maps for this segment may be obtained through FFMA. See Exhibit L, letter dated December 19, 2006, from Cesar Jose Suarez, Economic Development Director, City of Centralia, IL.

(iii) State whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required)

A permit under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act should not be required for the proposed action. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") indicates Section 402 of the Clean Water Act requirements should be determined by the ILPA. The EPA adds that in the process of abandoning the rail line the debris should not be discarded along the right-of-way or left in streams or wetlands, and appropriate measures should be taken to prevent or control pollutant spills from entering any watercourses during track and cross tie removal. See Exhibit M, electronic correspondence dated January 8, 2007, from Irvin Dzikowski, P.E., U.S. EPA, Region 5. As noted above, BNSF contacted the ILPA.

As mentioned above, the ILPA indicates it has reviewed the proposed abandonment and has determined that no permit is required pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and/or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. See Exhibit J, letter dated November 28, 2006, from Alan Keller, Manager, Permit Section, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

(10) Proposed Mitigation: Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate

The project itself should mitigate the environmental effects of reinstating active rail operations.

II

III HISTORIC REPORT (49 C.F.R. 1105.8)

Applicants hereby submit the following information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d).

- (1) A U.S.G.S topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action.*

The required topographic map is attached to this Report as Exhibit A

- (2) A written description of the right-of-way (including approximate widths to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area*

The Centralia, Illinois Trackage begins at Milepost 13.97 and ends at Milepost 15.02 being 1.05 miles in length. It straddles Clinton and Marion Counties in southern Illinois at a generally flat elevation of 492 feet above sea level. The original township of Centralia was platted by the Illinois Central Railroad, which gave the city its name. Centralia's 2000 census population was 14,136. The first mile of the subject track beginning at BNSF's north-south mainline moves through a residential and light industrial area. However, the second mile is primarily rural in nature. There are no federally granted rights of way involved.

- (3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area*

There are no railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older.

(4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations to the extent such information is known.

N/A

(5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action

The right-of-way (50 feet in width) was conveyed to The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) from the Missouri Pacific Railroad (MP), a subsidiary of the Union Pacific, when MP abandoned their line from Sparta to Centralia in 1989 (ref Finance Docket 31447). This was a 49 U.S.C. 11343 transaction (or carrier to carrier sale) for \$10. BNSF operated the trackage until 1995, by which time there were no remaining customers on the line. In 2005, BNSF changed its name to BNSF Railway Company.

A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic.

Documents in BNSF's possession concerning this abandonment may include alignment maps showing the right-of-way and/or station maps. Such documents are too large for practical reproduction in this report, but can be furnished upon request, if they are available.

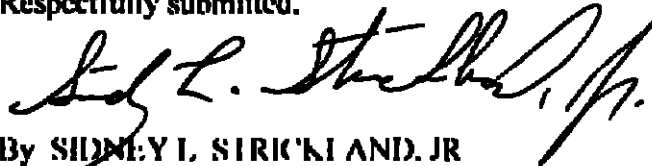
(6) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities).

The Illinois Historical Preservation Agency ("IHPA") indicates no historic properties are affected by the abandonment. IHPA adds it has no objection to the proceeding. See Exhibit N, letter dated December 15, 2006, from Anne E. Haaker, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

(8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain.

There are no known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, or any environmental conditions that might affect the archeological recovery of resources and the surrounding terrain.

Respectfully submitted,



By SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.
FELIZABETH WAITE
SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES
3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-1325
Attorneys for BNSF Railway Company

DATED March 8, 2007

CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS TRACKAGE

NORTH

CENTRALIA TRAIL

MILEPOST 15.02

MILEPOST 13.97

OLD MP LEAD OFF LINE SEGMENT 13
NEAR MILEPOST 122

CLINTON CO
WASHINGTON CO

Wama

Fulton



Administration
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801
618-533-7622 Phone
618-532-4534 Fax
www.cityofcentralia.org

December 18, 2006

Exhibit B

Mr. Sidney Strickland
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452x) BNSF Railway Co -
Abandonment Exemption in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL.

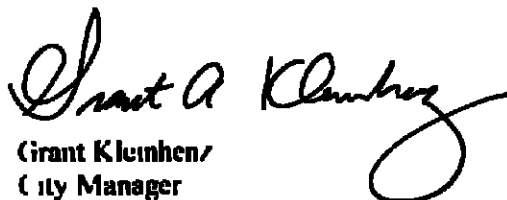
Dear Mr. Strickland:

In reference to your letter of November 20, 2006 showing the future abandonment of the BNSF rail-line between Milepost 13.97 to Milepost 15.02, the City of Centralia finds the proposed abandonment consistent with local land use plans.

The City of Centralia would like to see the abandoned rail-line be reused as future industrial expansion for adjacent businesses owners, a recreational trail, and/or a City road to improve traffic circulation in the area.

If you should have any questions please contact Cesar Suarez, Economic Development Director, or I at 618-533-7623.

Respectfully,


Grant Kleinhenz
City Manager

cc: Mayor John Stuchmeier
Cesar Suarez, Economic Development Director

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

**3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854**

Exhibit C

SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND, JR.
Sidney.Strickland@stricklandpllc.com

November 20, 2006

John Schwalbach, Bureau Chief
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Bureau of Railroads
3215 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL.***

Dear Mr. Schwalbach:

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans to file with the United States Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority in the above-referenced docket to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois ("the Line")

This 1.05 mile Centralia, IL, Trackage (Milepost 13.97 - Milepost 15.02) was part of the approximately 10 mile Sparta - Centralia, IL, line the Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") filed for abandonment in approximately 1989 (Missouri Pacific Railroad Finance Docket 31447 decided Jul 14, 1989, and served July 20, 1989). Two UP customers Valley Steel and Miller Lumber, were served on the 1.05 mile Centralia, IL, Trackage. Rather than initiate a lengthy and protested abandonment proceeding with the customers, UP sought to convey the 1.05 mile of trackage at Centralia serving Valley Steel and Miller Lumber to Burlington Northern Railroad ("BN"), one of BNSF's predecessors. BN acquired the 1.05 miles of trackage at Centralia in a carrier to carrier transaction under 49 U.S.C. 11343 and started serving the customers in approximately 1989 after UP abandoned its Sparta - Centralia line. This allowed for uninterrupted rail service to Valley Steel and Miller Lumber throughout and following the UP abandonment proceedings.

As you may know, Valley Steel went out of business in approximately 1991 and Miller Lumber burned down in approximately 1995. There were no other customers that used the Line and no traffic has been handled on the Line since Miller Lumber burned down.

The trackage and the switch off of the main line that served the Line were removed in approximately 2000. Due to their high cost of maintenance, BNSF will routinely remove switches from main and branch lines when they are no longer necessary. However, it is not BNSF's policy to remove track before going through a formal abandonment proceeding. BNSF has recently implemented internal and external procedures to ensure

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC

**3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854**

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.
Sidney.Strickland@stricklandpllc.com

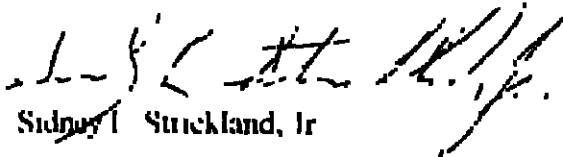
that track removal and the salvage process do not occur prior to receiving formal SIB abandonment authority. However, this Line was salvaged prior to those certain measures being in place.

As part of the environmental report BNSF is preparing as part of its Notice of Exemption with the SIB, BNSF must inquire with you as to whether or not the proposed action is consistent with local land use plans and if there are any alternate public uses for the corridor such as a highway relocation project and/or recreational trail.

For your reference, I have enclosed a map of the above referenced railroad line. Please provide this information to me by December 18, 2006. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 338-1325.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

Enclosures
SL/Seac



Exhibit D

1780 N 4th Street, Breese IL 62230
Phone (618) 526-7919 Ext 3 Fax (618) 526-8071

December 8, 2006

Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St N W , Suite 101
Washington, DC 2007-5108

Subject STB Docket No AB-6 (s- Sub No 452X) BNSF Railway Company - Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL

I have reviewed this project and no Prime Farmland exists along this section of right of way

Call if you have any questions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Zenner".

Howard Zenner
District Conservationist
Clinton County

Cc Robert McIcese, SSS, USDA, NRCS, Champaign, IL

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources of private land.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and where applicable, sexual orientation. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact USDA at (618) 526-7919 for assistance. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
1550 East Main
Salem, Illinois 62861
(618) 548-2230 Ext 3 548-2341 (FAX)

Exhibit E

www.nrcs.usda.gov

December 6, 2006

Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 4524) BNSF Railroad Company Abandonment
Exemption in Clinton and Marion County, Illinois

Dear Sir,

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Salem Field Office offers no comment regarding the proposed abandonment action in Marion County, Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Antonacci".

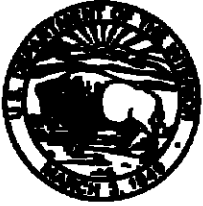
Tony Antonacci
District Conservationist

Cc: Bob McLeese, USDA-NRCS Champaign

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Helping People. Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

Exhibit F

IN REPLY REFER TO

FWS/NWRS-RE - General
Railroad Abandonments

November 28, 2006

Mr. Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Dear Mr. Strickland:

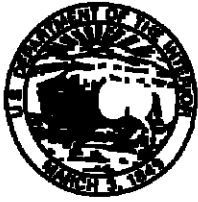
I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed abandonment of 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois. SIB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company.

We have researched our ownerships in the vicinity and have determined we do not own any lands or interests in land in the vicinity of the proposed rail line abandonment. We do not have any concerns regarding real estate matters in the abandonment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick G. Carroll".

Patrick G. Carroll
Senior Realty Officer
Division of Realty



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102-1336



650 2(MWR-P/G)

Exhibit G

Mr. Sidney I. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, D.C. 20007-5108

DEC 27 2006

Dear Mr. Strickland:

This is in response to your November 20, 2006, request that the National Park Service respond to STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company Abandonment Exemption in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois.

We have reviewed this project in relation to any possible conflicts with the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery programs and find there are none. Accordingly, we have no additional comments at this time.

You may contact me at 402 661-1546 if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Robert Maydwell
Grants Management Assistant
Partnerships- Grants

Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102



Exhibit H

Sidney Strickland
Sidney Strickland and Assoc , PLLC
3050 K Street N.W , Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Re STB Docket AB-6 (Sub 452X) and STB Docket AB 6 (Sub 460X), BNSF Abandonments IL & NI

We have received your letter of November 20, 2006 concerning the above referenced projects.

- ☒ We have no comment on your proposed actions.
- ☐ Please address any further correspondence about these projects or any project to the following address:

Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha NE 68102

Due to limited staff and the number of requests we receive for early coordination, we ask that companies/agencies assume we will have no comments on projects if they have not heard from us within 30 days of our receipt of the request.

Thank you,

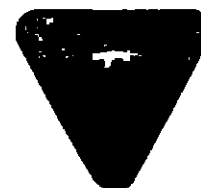
Regional Environmental Coordinator



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States

Milwaukee Field Office
626 F Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 200
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4617



IN REPLY REFER TO
#0000000000

December 6, 2006

Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K Street N W , Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

RE: STB Docket No AB-6 (Sub No 452X) BNSF Railway Company - Abandonment and
Discontinuance in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL

Dear Mr Strickland

This is in response to your letter of November 20, 2006, to our office concerning the proposal by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97, and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois

A search of our records shows there are no Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management along the railroad line. However, please be aware that some of the original railroad grants were limited fee rights-of-way and may be subject to the Railroad Right-of-Way Forfeiture and Abandonment Act of March 8, 1922, 43 U.S.C. § 912 (the 1922 Abandonment Act), and the National Trails System Improvement Act of October 4, 1988, Public Law 100-470, 16 U.S.C. § 1248 (c) - (f).

I thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Our office does not have information on the location of wildlife refuges, state or national parks, and state or national forests in the immediate vicinity. You must contact the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, National Forest Service and State offices to obtain this information. If you require additional information, please contact me at (414) 297-4402.

Sincerely,

Marcia Sieckman
Supervisor, Lands and Renewable Resources Team



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST PO BOX 19276 SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62794-0276 TEL 217-782-3397

JAMES R. THOMPSON, CHIEF 100 WEST RANDOLPH SUITE 1100 CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60601 TEL 312-631-6020

ROBERT BLANCHARD, CHAIRMAN DOUGLAS F. SCOTT, DIRECTOR

Exhibit J

217-782-0610

November 28, 2006

Mr. Sidney Strickland
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050K St -Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Re STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company

Dear Mr. Strickland:

The Agency has completed its review of the proposed abandonment of 1.05 miles of track in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois, which Permit Section received on November 27, 2006. Based on that review the Agency has determined that no permit is required pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and/or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Information regarding flood plains can be obtained by going to the web site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter or its contents please contact Jeff Hutton at the above phone number and address.

Sincerely,

Alan Keller, P.E.
Manager, Permit Section
Division of Water Pollution Control

SAK:CH \j\docs\misc\docs\hutton\stormwater letters\Strickland3.doc

CC: Records
Collinsville Regional Office



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

Exhibit K

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

December 17, 2006

Regulatory Branch
File Number: 2006-1104

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, LLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We have reviewed your submittal, concerning the abandonment of the 1.05 miles of Centralia, IL Trackage (Milepost 13.47-Milepost 15.02), near Centralia, IL, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois. The project is near the Sower Creek, a tributary to the Kaskaskia River.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act assigns responsibility to the Secretary of the Army to administer a permit program to regulate the placement of fill material into waters of the United States. A Section 404 permit must authorize the placement of fill material into waters of the United States, below ordinary high water elevation, or in wetlands adjacent to these waters.

Based upon a review of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographical map, soil survey and National Wetland Inventory maps, we determined that no wetlands or waters of the United States would be impacted by your project. **As a result of this determination, a Department of the Army, Section 404 permit is not required for this project.** This verification is valid for five years from the date of this letter.

This determination is applicable only to the permit program administered by the Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other Federal, state or local approvals before beginning work.

You are reminded that although your proposal does not need a Section 404 permit, based on your submitted plans, any revisions to your proposal may be subject to Section 404 and require subsequent authorization from this office.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, do not hesitate to contact Chuck Crocker at (314) 331-8810. Please refer to file number 2006-J104.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan L.J. Horneman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being the most prominent.

Susan L.J. Horneman
Project Manager
Illinois Permit Region

copies furnished:

Mr. Paul Meyer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Mr. James Allison, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



Administration
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801
618-533-7622 Phone
618-532-4534 Fax
www.cityofcentralia.org

December 19, 2006

Exhibit L

Mr. Sidney Strickland
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W., Suite 101
Washington, DC 20007-5108

Re: SIB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452x) BNSF Railway Co -
Abandonment Exemption in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL

Dear Mr. Strickland:

In reference to your letter of November 20, 2006 showing the future abandonment of the BNSF rail-line between Milepost 13.97 to Milepost 15.02, the City of Centralia finds the proposed abandonment will not affect any 100-year floodplain within the corporate limits of the City - the segment of rail east of Cherry Street.

The attached Flood Plain Map shows the segment east of Cherry. As for the segment to the West of Cherry, the City cannot comment as we do not have any floodplain maps for this area. Flood plain maps may be obtained through FEMA.

If you should have any questions please contact Cesar Suarez, Economic Development Director, or I at 618-533-7623.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cesar Suarez', followed by a horizontal line.

Cesar Jose Suarez
Economic Development Director

cc: Grant Kleinhenz, City Manager
Mayor John Stuehmieter
Brian Cupple, Public Works

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CITY OF
CENTRALIA,
ILLINOIS
MARION AND CLINTON
COUNTIES

(ONLY PANEL PRINTED)

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
170453 0005 C

EFFECTIVE DATE:
DECEMBER 18, 1984



Federal Emergency Management Agency

KEY TO MAP

500 Year Flood Boundary - - - -
100 Year Flood Boundary - - - -
Zone Designations*



100 Year Flood Boundary - - - -
500 Year Flood Boundary - - - -

Base Flood Elevation Line
With Elevation in Feet** **513**

Base Flood Elevation in Feet
Where Uniform Within Zone** **(EL 987)**

Elevation Reference Mark **RM7x**

Zone D Boundary - - - - -

River Mile ***M1.5**

**Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

EXPLANATION OF ZONE DESIGNATIONS

ZONE	EXPLANATION
A	Areas of 100-year flood base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined
AO	Areas of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet, average depths of inundation are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined
AH	Areas of 100 year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet, base flood elevations are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined
AI A3D	Area of 100 year flood, base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined
A99	Areas of 100 year flood to be protected by flood protection system under construction, base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined
B	Areas between limits of the 100 year flood and 500 year flood, or certain areas subject to 100 year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile, or areas protected by levees from the base flood (Medium shading)
C	Areas of minimal flooding (No shading)
D	Areas of undetermined, but possible flood hazards
IV	Areas of 100 year coastal flood with velocity (wave action) base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined
V1 V30	Areas of 100 year coastal flood with velocity (wave action), base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined

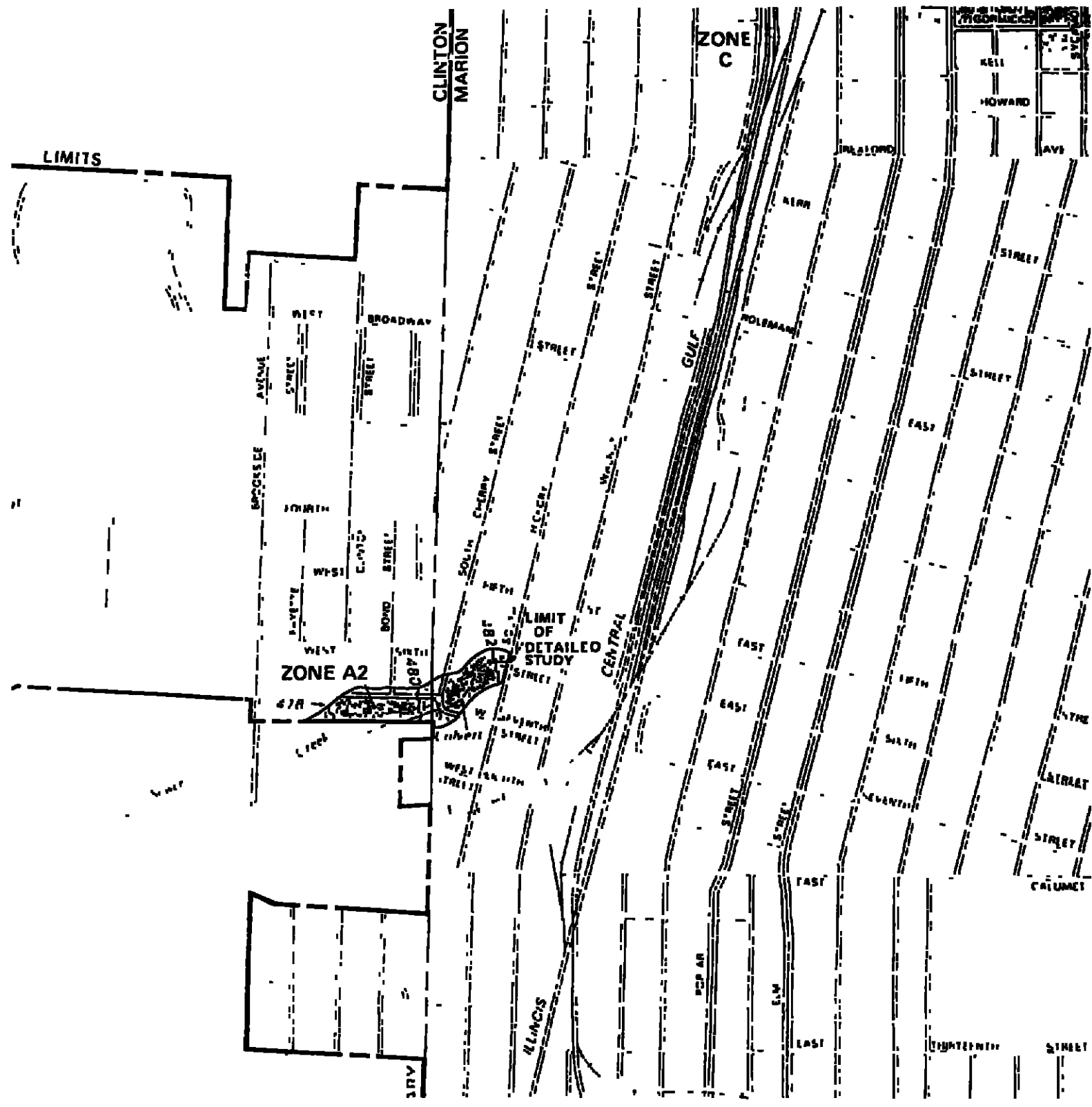




Exhibit M

[Home](#) [Compose](#) [Address Book](#) [Options](#) [Logout](#)

 Username **Ia**
 (ian.thomas@

Inbox (30)

Drafts

Deleted Items

Sent

Message
[Delete](#) | [Delete permanently](#)
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From: Dzikowski, Irvin [mailto:irvin@epamail.epa.gov]

To: Ian Thomas <ian.thomas@stricklandplc.com>

Subject: Re: Proposed Railroad Abandonment in Centralia, IL STB Docket No. A

Date: 08-Jan-07 03:55 PM

Attachments: US EPA Centralia Initial Letter.doc; Centralia, IL Map.pdf

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InLine Text

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Mr Thomas

We have no record of having received any correspondence regarding this proposed abandonment exemption. However, based on your request for a response via e-mail and information in the attached e-mail we offer the following in reply. The decision as to the need for permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act should be determined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Further, in the process of abandoning the rail line, none of the debris may be discarded along the right of way or left in streams or wetlands or the banks of such waterways. During track and cross tie removal, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent or control spills from fuels, lubricants or any other pollutants from entering any watercourses.

Irvin J. Dzikowski, P.E.

Ian Thomas

<ian.thomas@stricklandplc.com>

> To:

Irvin Dzikowski/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

01/02/2007 cc

03:03 PM

Subject:

Proposed Railroad Abandonment in
Centralia, IL

Hi Mr. Dzikowski,



**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Voice (217) 782-4836

www.illinois-history.gov

Various County

Centralia

Railroad Abandonment

Between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02

IHPA Log #013112706

December 15, 2006

Sidney Strickland

Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC

3050 K St. N.W. Ste. 101

Washington, DC 20007-5108

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for two years from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 217/785-5027.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Haaker

Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R.1105.7(c) and 8(c)

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF"), by and through its authorized representative, Sidney L. Strickland, Jr., certifies that on March 8, 2007, BNSF sent copies of the foregoing Environmental and Historic Reports by first class mail to the following agencies.

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, SEA
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 W. Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821

Alan Keller, P.E.
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Susan L. J. Horneman, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Patrick G. Carroll
Big River Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
B11W Federal Building
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

Marcia Stuckman
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Eastern States
Milwaukee Field Office
676 E. Wisconsin Ave
Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4617

Brian Copple, Public Works
114 E. 5th Street
Centralia, IL 62801

John Stuchmeier, Mayor
Centralia City Hall
222 S. Poplar St. (U.S. 51)
Centralia, IL 62801

John Schwalbach, Bureau Chief
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Bureau of Railroads
3215 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

Robert Maydwell
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

Irvin Dzikowski
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3540

Anne E. Haaker
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

Clinton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 308
County Courthouse
Carlyle, IL 62231-0308

Sam Nall
Marion County Board Chairman
P O Box 637
Salem, Illinois 62881

Grant Kleinhenz, City Manager
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801

Howard Zenner, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1780 N 4th Street
Breese, IL 62230

Tony Antonucci, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1550 East Main
Salem, Illinois 62881

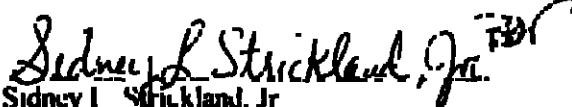
Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Cesar Jose Suarez
Economic Development Director
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia IL 62801

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Geodetic Survey
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910-1282

Office of the Governor
State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

The required cover letters (pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1105.11) are attached hereto. BNSF has consulted with all appropriate agencies in preparing the reports.


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC
3050 K St. N.W.,
Suite 101
Washington, D.C. 20007

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-296-3854

SIDNEY E. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

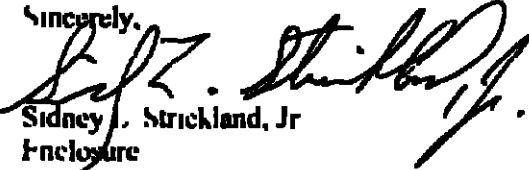
Ms Victoria Rutson
Chief, SLA
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company--Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

Sincerely,


Sidney E. Strickland, Jr.
Enclosure
SLS/ew

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 W Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Sir or Madam:


On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned by telephone at (202) 338-1325 or by mail at Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC, 3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 101, Washington, DC 20007.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
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SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Alan Keller, P.E.
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Keller

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney I. Strickland, Jr.
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Susan J. J. Horneman, Project Manager
U S Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2811

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Ms Horneman

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Sidney I. Strickland, Jr.
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SJS/ew

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Brian Copple, Public Works
114 E. 5th Street
Centralia, IL 62801

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Copple

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney I. Strickland, Jr.
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Patrick G. Carroll, Senior Realty Officer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3
BIIW Federal Building
One Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Carroll:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Enclosure
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

John Stuehmeier, Mayor
Centralia City Hall
222 S. Poplar St. (U.S. 51)
Centralia, IL 62801

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Stuehmeier:


On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.
- - - - -

March 8, 2007

Marcia Sieckman
U.S. Bureau of Land Management Eastern States
Milwaukee Field Office
626 E. Wisconsin Ave
Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4617

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Ms. Sieckman:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
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SLS/cew

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3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
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SIDNEY STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

John Schwalbach, Bureau Chief
Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Bureau of Railroads
3215 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Schwalbach:

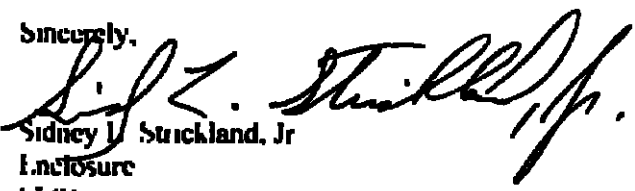
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I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Enclosure
M/S/ew

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Irvin Dzikowski
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Dzikowski,

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Sidney Strickland, Jr.

Enclosure

SLS/cew

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3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
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TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX 202-295-3854

SIDNEY STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Robert Maydwell
National Park Service
Midwest Region
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Maydwell:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Sincerely,



Sidney Strickland, Jr.

Enclosure

SI/S/ew

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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Anne B. Haaker
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Ms. Haaker:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned by telephone at (202) 338-1325 or by mail at Sidney Strickland and Associates, PLLC, 3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 101, Washington, DC 20007.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Sidney L. Strickland Jr.
Enclosure
SLS/ew

SIDNEY STRICKLAND AND ASSOCIATES, PLLC
3050 K ST. N.W., SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE. 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Clinton County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 308
County Courthouse
Carlyle, IL 62231-0308

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Sirs and Madam

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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Enclosure
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Sam Nall
Marion County Board Chairman
P O Box 637
Salem, Illinois 62881

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Nall

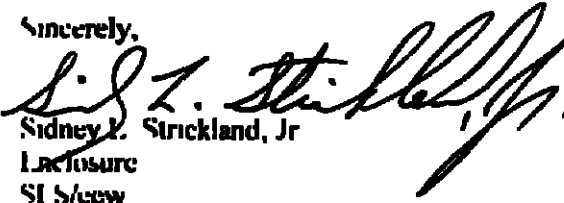
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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY I. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

Grant Kleinhenz, City Manager
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Kleinhenz

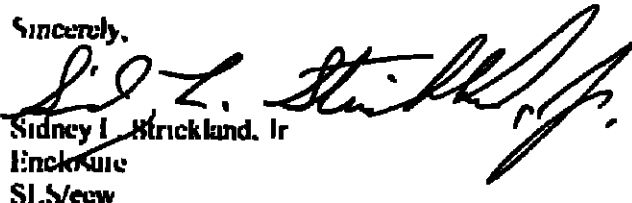
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3050 K ST N W , SUITE 101
WASHINGTON, DC 20007-6108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
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SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.

March 8, 2007

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Geodetic Survey
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Sir or Madam:

On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centuria, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Office of the Governor
State of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

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Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Howard Zenner, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1780 N. 4th Street
Breese, IL 62230

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Zenner:


On or about March 28, 2007, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") plans on filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 1.05 miles of railroad line between Milepost 13.97 and Milepost 15.02, near Centralia, in Clinton and Marion Counties, Illinois (the "Line"). Attached are Environmental and Historic Reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

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FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Tony Antonacci, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1550 East Main
Salem, Illinois 62881

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL.***

Dear Mr. Antonacci:

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-298-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR.

March 8, 2007

Regional Environmental Coordinator
National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption - in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Sir or Madam:

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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-5108
TELEPHONE: 202-338-1325
FAX: 202-295-3854

SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND JR

March 8, 2007

Cesar Jose Suarez
Economic Development Director
City of Centralia
222 S Poplar Street
Centralia, IL 62801

***Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 452X) BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment
Exemption – in Clinton and Marion Counties, IL***

Dear Mr. Suarez:

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